

Message Text

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TAGS: OVIP (TODMAN, TERENCE A.), DR
SUBJECT: TODMAN VISIT: QUESTIONS & ANSWERS FOR PRESS ENCOUNTERS

REF: STATE 229939

1. FOLLOWING ARE QUESTIONS ON MAIN SUBJECTS OF CURRENT
DOMINICAN CONCERN, LIKELY TO BE RAISED BY LOCAL MEDIA REPS
DURING ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN'S VISIT HERE, AND PROPOSED
REPLIES:

(A) SUGAR

Q: AS YOU ARE AWARE, RESTRICTIVE US MEASURES ON SUGAR
IMPORTS ARE HIGHLY DAMAGING TO THE DOMINICAN ECONOMY WHICH
IS SO DEPENDENT ON SUGAR EXPORTS TO THE US. WHAT ARE THE
PROSPECTS FOR US ADOPTION OF ADDITIONAL SUGAR DUTIES IN LIGHT
OF THE RESULTS OF THE DISCUSSIONS AT GENEVA ON AN INTERNATIONAL
SUGAR AGREEMENT?

A: (REPLY TO BE MODIFIED IN ACCORDANCE WITH RESULTS OF
CURRENT ISA NEGOTIATIONS) IF THE CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS CULMINATE
IN A NEW ISA, THIS WILL LEAD TO HIGHER SUGAR PRICES AND THUS
BENEFIT THE DOMINICAN ECONOMY CONSIDERABLY. CONCLUSION OF
A NEW ISA WOULD SUPERSEDE THE PROVISIONS IN THE RECENT US
SUGAR LEGISLATION RELATING TO IMPOSITION OF SUGAR DUTIES.

(B) ROLE OF MULTINATIONALS

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Q: HOW DOES THE US VIEW THE ROLE OF MULTINATIONAL COMPANIES
IN SMALL DEVELOPING COUNTRIES? IS IT RIGHT FOR A LARGE FOREIGN
FIRM, SUCH AS GULF AND WESTERN, TO OWN VAST AMOUNTS OF SUGAR
LAND IN A SMALL COUNTRY SUCH AS THE DR? SHOULD FOREIGN MINING
COMPANIES SUCH AS ROSARIO, FALCONBRIDGE AND ALCOA BE ALLOWED
TO MAKE HUGE PROFITS IN A SMALL DEVELOPING COUNTRY?

A: THE US BELIEVES THAT MULTINATIONAL COMPANIES CAN PLAY AN IMPORTANT BENEFICIAL ROLE IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES THROUGH PROVISION OF CAPITAL, TECHNOLOGY, MANAGERIAL KNOW-HOW, AND INCREASED EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES. CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH FOREIGN FIRMS OPERATE IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES ARE DETERMINED BY THE GOVERNMENTS OF THOSE COUNTRIES AND SPECIFIC ARRANGEMENTS ARE WORKED OUT WITH THE PARTICULAR COMPANY. OBVIOUSLY, TO REAP THE BENEFITS THAT CAN BE OBTAINED FROM FOREIGN INVESTMENT, GOVERNMENTS MUST ESTABLISH CONDITIONS THAT WILL PROVIDE A FAVORABLE CLIMATE FOR SUCH INVESTMENT; OTHERWISE, FOREIGN FIRMS WILL ESTABLISH THEIR OPEATIONS ELSESEWHERE. ON THE OTHER HAND, GOVERNMENTS MUST BE CAREFUL TO ENSURE THAT ARRANGEMENTS WITH FOREIGN FIRMS FURTHER NATIONAL SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC OBJECTIVES. IN OTHER WORDS, A PROPER BALANCE OF ARRANGEMENTS CAN CONTRIBUTE TO THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROGRESS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WHILE PROVIDING FOR A REASONABLE RETURN TO FOREIGN COMPANIES.

(C) PRESIDENT CARTER'S PRAISE OF PRESIDENT BALAGUER

Q: FOLLOWING THEIR RECENT MEETING IN WASHINGTON, PRESIDENT CARTER WARMLY PRAISED PRESIDENT BALAGUER. SOME PEOPLE CONSIDER THIS TO BE A TRIUMPH FOR PRESIDENT BALAGUER AND SUPPORT FOR HIS REELECTION NEXT MAY. WHAT WAS THE MEANING OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S COMMENTS? WHAT IS THE POSITION OF THE US TOWARDS THE CONTENDING PARTIES IN THE UPCOMING ELECTIONS?

A: PRESIDENT CARTER'S COMMENTS ABOUT PRESIDENT BALAGUER FOLLOWING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THEIR MEETING IN WASHINGTON ACKNOWLEDGED THE GREAT PROGRESS THAT HAS BEEN MADE IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC UNDER PRESIDENT BALAGUER'S ADMINISTRATION OVER THE PAST DECADE. IN PUBLIC COMMENTS, DOMINICAN OPPOSITION LEADERS AS WELL HAVE RECOGNIZED THE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS ACHIEVED IN THIS COUNTRY DURING THE BALAGUER ADMINISTRATION. THE UNITED STATES FAVORS FREE, DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC BUT IS COMPLETELY NEUTRAL IN ITS ATTITUDE TOWARD THE CONTENDING PARTIES.

(D) HUMAN RIGHTS

Q: IN VIEW OF THE EMPHASIS BEING PLACED BY THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION ON HUMAN RIGHTS, HOW DO YOU JUSTIFY THE CLOSE RELATIONS AND EXCHANGES OF HIGH-LEVEL VISIT BETWEEN THE US AND SUCH REGIMES AS THOSE OF DUVALIER AND PINOCHET? IT IS NOT A VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS FOR THE DOMINICAN GOVERNMENT TO PROHIBIT THE RETURN OF GENERAL WESSIN Y WESSIN TO HIS COUNTRY, PARTICULARLY SINCE HE IS A LIKELY CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT IN THE FORTHCOMING ELECTIONS?

A: HUMAN RIGHTS IS A FUNDAMENTAL CONCERN OF US POLICY, AND THE US IS COMMITTED TO SUPPORT THE ADVANCEMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN EVERY PRACTICAL WAY. AT THE SAME TIME, THE US HAS VARIOUS OTHER INTERESTS IN OTHER COUNTRIES. THE US CAN USUALLY BEST

PURSUE THESE INTERESTS, AND OFTEN CAN FURTHER THE CAUSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS AS WELL, BY MAINTAINING A DIALOGUE WITH OFFICIALS IN THE COUNTRIES CONCERNED. BALANCED JUDGMENT MUST BE APPLIED, IN LIGHT OF PARTICULAR CIRCUMSTANCES, IN DETERMINING THE NATURE OF US RELATIONS WITH EACH COUNTRY THAT WILL BEST ACHIEVE SUCH US PURPOSES AS PROMOTING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, INTERNATIONAL SECURITY, AND HUMAN RIGHTS. AS REGARDS THE CASE OF GENERAL WESSIN Y WESSIN, I UNDERSTAND THAT THIS IS A COMPLEX MATTER AND I AM NOT FAMILIAR WITH DETAILS. I AM THEREFORE NOT PREPARED TO COMMENT ON IT.
(E) PROPOSALS TO CONTROL ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION TO US

Q: HOW WILL THE NEW ADMINISTRATION'S PROPOSALS TO CONTROL ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION AFFECT DOMINICANS WHO ARE NOW ILLEGALLY IN THE US AND FUTURE VISA APPLICANTS.
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A: ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION IS AN INCREASINGLY SERIOUS PROBLEM FOR THE US. THE ADMINISTRATION'S PROPOSALS ARE DESIGNED TO DEAL WITH THIS PROBLEM IN A REASONABLE AND HUMANITARIAN WAY. THEY WOULD PERMIT THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN IN THE US FOR MANY YEARS (SINCE DEC 31, 1969) TO ACQUIRE FULL PERMANENT RESIDENT STATUS. THOSE WHO ENTERED THE US ILLEGALLY BETWEEN JANUARY 1, 1970 AND JANUARY 1, 1977, WOULD BE ELIGIBLE FOR TEMPORARY RESIDENT STATUS, WITH THE RIGHT TO WORK, FOR A PERIOD OF FIVE YEARS UNTIL A DECISION IS MADE ON THEIR FUTURE STATUS. THOSE WHO ENTERED THE US ILLEGALLY SINCE LAST JANUARY 1 WOULD BE SUBJECT TO EXISTING IMMIGRATION LAWS AND REGULATIONS. ELIGIBILITY OF FUTURE VISA APPLICANTS WOULD BE DETERMINED IN ACCORDANCE WITH EXISTING LAWS AND REGULATIONS BUT CONTROLS ON ILLEGAL ENTRY INTO THE US AND VISA SCREENING PROCESSES WOULD BE STRENGTHENED.

2. QUESTIONS MAY ALSO ARISE ON GENERAL SUBJECTS OF PROSPECTS FOR US RELATIONS WITH CUBA, PANAMA CANAL TREATIES (E.G., PROSPECTS FOR RATIFICATION, WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF SENATE REJECTS TREATIES), AND US CONCERNS AND OUTLOOK FOR CARIBBEAN REGION.
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